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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,300	08/31/2001	Bernd Souvignier	DE000133	2162

24737 7590 12/28/2005

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
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EXAMINER

ALBERTALLI, BRIAN LOUIS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
09/944,300	SOUVIGNIER, BERND	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Brian L. Albertalli	2655	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendments to the claims have been entered. Claims 1 and 4 are currently amended.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed November 3, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 4 to include the limitation "selected ones of the plurality of speech models being provided with information (9) specifically related to the corresponding speech model". The Applicant has alleged that Strong does not include this feature.

However, Strong discloses that speech models (language models) are constructed from speech rules (column 7, lines 16-23). The speech rules define the specific terms that are recognized by the language model, thus the speech rules are clearly "information" that is provided to the speech models (language models). Further, the information is clearly "specifically related to the corresponding speech model", as the rules define the speech model.

Therefore, the rejections of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strong are maintained.

With regard to the Applicant's reply to statements regarding column 10, lines 9-22 of Strong (see page 4, final paragraph of Applicant's arguments), the Examiner again submits that one method for generating the language model uses *all* of the speech rules (which are each associated with their own respective language models) to generate the language model. There is simply nothing in column 10, lines 9-22 referring to an "Open command" as alleged by the Applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strong (U.S. Patent 5,384,892).

In regard to claim 1, Strong discloses a speech system (Fig. 2, 200, Strong does not state that the system is a "dialogue" system, however, the examiner has not given any patentable weight to "dialogue", as none is recited in the claims) comprising a speech understanding unit (language model generator/interpreter 230) in which, for identifying a meaningful word subsequence from a recognition result (recognized words 221, column 5, lines 36-40) produced by a speech recognition unit (recognizer 220) which result was determined for a word sequence fed to the speech dialog system (digitized sound signals 201), the word subsequence is evaluated by each available different speech models (language models 222, column 4, line 56 through column 5, line 25 and column 10, lines 9-22), wherein selected ones of the plurality of speech

models being provided with information specifically related to the corresponding speech model (column 7, lines 16-23).

In regard to claim 2, Strong discloses a general speech model and at least one theme specific speech model are provided for evaluating the word subsequence.

Strong discloses a set of language models (Figs. 4-6, LM1-3 and Figs. 11-12 LM6) that are theme specific speech models (column 7, line 45 through column 8 line 14 illustrates an example in which the theme is “numbers”, while column 8, line 59 through column 9, line 22 illustrates an example in which the theme is “documents”). Each language model is constructed from a phrase list of words that can be recognized and their associated meanings (column 7, lines 16-44).

Additionally, Strong discloses that a general speech (language) model is constructed from a general (global) context rule set partition (Fig. 13, 1330). The elements are always active (column 12, lines 28-29 and lines 50-57).

In regard to claim 3, Strong discloses a theme specific speech (language) model (Figs. 11 and 12, LM6) to which a database (“Documents” directory, Fig. 8a, 801) with respective theme specific data material (file names 802-805) is assigned, which material is used for determining the semantic information contained in the word subsequence (which phrases will be in language model LM6).

LM6 is a dynamic language model that depends on the contents of the “Documents” directory 801. See Fig. 11. When a new file is added to the directory,

such as "Memo 2" (Fig. 9a, 906), the language model, which determines the semantic information carried in the word subsequence, is updated to include "Memo2" (Fig. 12, column 8, line 48 through column 9, line 50).

In regard to claim 4, Strong discloses a method of extracting a significant word subsequence from a recognition result of a speech dialogue system, in which a word subsequence is evaluated each of a plurality of different speech models in a speech understanding unit of the speech dialog system (column 14, lines 10-58 and column 10, lines 9-22), wherein selected ones of the plurality of speech models being provided with information specifically related to the corresponding speech model (column 7, lines 16-23).

Several different speech models are included in the speech understanding unit (language model generator/interpreter 230) depending on the context of system (Fig 15, steps 1511 and 1513, column 14, lines 10-58). The word subsequence that matches speech rules defined by the speech models (Fig. 16, step 1605) is used to perform various scripts (1609), otherwise, if the input speech does not match any speech rule, the system returns to an idle state (1611, column 14, line 59 through column 15, line 14).

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian L. Albertalli whose telephone number is (571) 272-7616. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, every second Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on (571) 272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2655

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BLA 12/21/05



SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER